

The War and You



Potato Patriotism

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How to Help Feed Europe's Millions and at the Same Time Have Enough to Eat at Home. Plan Outlined by Ernest Thompson Seton and the Woodcraft League.

Food prices are high, but they will be higher.

Bread and potatoes are essential to life. America is going to have less of them this coming winter.

We are now making plans to help feed millions more of Europe's people. This means less for us.

The one thing that will stand between us and next winter will be the vegetables raised in the gardens, back yards, lots and pieces of vacant land this summer.

Next to wheat the potato is our most important crop. It can be raised on small plots; it can be cared for by the average person. Ernest Thompson Seton says: "The largest addition to the food supply in the shortest time



Yes! I belong to the Woodcraft League. & I'm going to do my bit.

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with the least trouble can be made by growing potatoes. It calls for no unusual skill or outlay—a boy or girl, a hoe and a sunny back yard with our instructions for guidance.

"We face the future with the immediate prospect of the greatest food shortage our generation has ever known. Every acre of potatoes planted is life insurance against starvation next winter," declares Isaac Russell in the New York Evening Mail.

Woodcraft Potato Clubs.

This urgent need has caused the Woodcraft League of America to urge the formation of clubs of boys and girls, men and women, who will raise potatoes. A minimum number of hills is to be raised by each member, but it is hoped that this will be only a starting point. Complete instructions for planting and raising potatoes, prepared by the American Agriculturist in co-operation with the Woodcraft League, will be furnished each member.

Every American who can possibly plant and raise potatoes is not only doing himself a favor, but renders a real service to the nation. "Do your bit." Serve your country by planting and raising potatoes.

Organizing a Potato Club.

Get a group together, either boys or girls, using a group already organized if possible. Have the group elect a president and secretary, with the understanding that the adult leader is to be supervisor of everything.

How to Succeed.—Split the club into two teams, appointing captains and having them select their teams, just



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as we used to choose ball teams in a choose up game. Name the teams and allot each half of the tract.

Divide the teams into squads, each to have an allotment of ground, and then give each individual his or her own plot to work all alone. When this is done they are ready to work, and

the leader must know what to do and how to tell it. He should know about raising potatoes. The club instructions tell the fundamentals, but the leader with any plot of size would better consult some local agriculturist and post himself fully. He will be able to interest the boys and girls by explaining the real worth of their work and how much it is needed, with the land approaching a time of food shortage like that of Europe; of the president's message to boys and girls that the best way they can help is to raise food. He will tell them that it takes three months or more to do the job right, testing whether they are the real thing or the sham which soon tires and drops out, and urge them to see it through.

The leader must see that the club button is worn, and, as competition is the secret of success with boys and



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girls, he must keep them on their mettle by awarding points right along, which shall count for the prizes when harvest is over. Points should be given for excellence in digging up the soil, planting, cultivating, weeding, etc., and harvesting. The point system will make each want to excel, squad will rival squad, and teams will work hard to win. The result tabulated by the club leaflet is friendly rivalry, greater interest, greater results, greater fun.

Recreation, Fun, Patriotism.

The Woodcraft League is not alone in proposing to utilize boys and girls in potato raising. Since Mr. Seton announced the slogan, "The Hoe Behind the Flag," he has been gratified that a large number of other organizations have taken up and are pushing the idea of "potato patriotism." Indeed, the state of New York thinks so favorably of the plan that it is proposed to enlist 100,000 schoolboys to till the farms of the state that more men may be free to enlist. But so far as announced none of these agencies have constructive plans for the boys and girls beyond having them till the potatoes after they are planted. Here is where Mr. Seton believes the Woodcraft potato clubs will excel, for it is aimed to give the boys and girls recreation and FUN while they are "doing their bits."

Will Arouse Boyish Enthusiasm.

Boyish enthusiasm will respond quickly to the call for patriotic service. "For the Flag" will attract them in masses, but about the time the sun shines bright on the farm, whether it be a 20 by 20 back yard or a multiple of acres, the enthusiasm will congeal (or melt and evaporate), and in proportion as the backs get hot the feet will get cold, and the flag and patriotism will suffer a slump. So Mr. Seton, who has been working for and with boys for more than a generation and knows the boy's mind quite as well as he does that of the Indian—for he is



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Chief Black Wolf of the Sewany tribe by adoption—knew that something must be done to provide for perseverance in the task to hold the child interest to the end or until the stimulus of coming harvest time has gripped. So the program is addressed more to the adults who shall lead the boy and girl groups than to the boys and girls who compose them.

The proverb runs, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and makes Jill a dull girl, for that matter. But you remember the boy back home who always was able to call in a group of his playmates to clean up any disagreeable task by making them think it a privilege he was granting. The youthful psychologist turned work into play. Teamwork put the actual work out of the way before the boys tired of the game and there was a reaction to sure enough play. It took England a long time when war came to learn what to do with the boys and how to make them cheerful, healthy workers. Before the lesson was learned thousands were slaving in munition works and other factories, wasting strength and health. We of America must learn to profit by the lesson.

Prizes For Potato Growers.

Boys and girls under eighteen need only to sign an application blank and forward it to the Woodcraft League of America, 13 West Twenty-ninth Street, New York City, and get back by mail a membership button and complete information what to do to get their "hoe behind the flag." In addition, as far as possible it was agreed

to send the children seed potatoes for twenty-four hills free, made possible by the generosity of a New York man of national prominence.

Adults, meaning everybody over eighteen, receive the button and circulars of instruction and provide their own seed potatoes. The crops, naturally, will belong to the raisers, the benefit to the country at large being that the food supply is increased. It is confidently expected that the stimulus of Woodcraft potato clubs will result in the production of an additional 1,000,000 bushels of spuds to feed the soldiers and the rest of us next winter.

Competition for prizes is open only to the juniors—that is, those under eighteen. A beautiful silk American flag and a Woodcraft League potato club pennant will be given to the boy or girl who raises the best crop from twenty-four hills. The winner's name will be engraved on a brass plate on the staff.

A silk flag and pennant with name engraved on plate will be given to the boy or girl who raises the largest potato.

Second and third prizes will be announced later, and many other prizes are contemplated.

Instructions In Farming.

To each Woodcraft potato farmer will go, whether he be Bobbie or Rockefeller, a printed sheet of instructions how to plant and raise the crop. Monmouth county, N. J., is the banner county of the state for potato raising. In that county are hundreds of summer homes and country estates. The owners are forming an association to plant potatoes on every spare piece of ground in the county, so far as seed



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potatoes can be provided. Mrs. Philip Lewisohn of 923 Fifth Avenue, New York City and West End, N. J., is leading in the movement and has enlisted Mrs. James Willett Cunningham, also of West End; Mrs. F. T. Freilighusen of Elberon; Mrs. S. I. Guggenheim of Elberon; Mrs. Rudolph Erbsloh of Rumson Road; Mrs. Jefferson Seligman of Long Branch; Mrs. Hamilton Fish Cane of Red Bank and a long list of others. Postmaster Thomas Patten of New York City offered his estate at Seabright to the Monmouth county Woodcraft potato clubs, and Mrs. James Seligman of West End offered to finance the planting.

Mrs. Lewisohn has had committee meetings in New York City and a mass meeting at Long Branch to promote potato planting, and if they have their way the county will be the banner county not alone of New Jersey, but of the Union.

Governors of most of the eastern and several western states have accepted places on the honorary council of the Woodcraft potato clubs, and several have asked their agricultural forces to co-operate with the Woodcraft movement. Several of the large railway systems have agreed to foster the clubs along their lines. When this article was written there had not been time to hear from the entire country since the plan was promulgated, but from every section whence mails have arrived there is but one note, and that of commendation for Mr. Seton's movement.

Be a Potato Patriot!

Fill out the blank, become a member of the Woodcraft League Potato clubs and urge every one of your friends to join in this plan of saving our country from want. Get your

schoolmates, class members, club members and next door neighbors to join with you.

You understand—the first and only qualification for membership in the Potato clubs is that a member must plant and raise at least twenty-four hills of potatoes and make use of the crop, preferably giving the proceeds of the first twenty-four hills to some war fund.

Raising potatoes is real service to the nation.

LET'S HOE OUR WAY TO VICTORY.



THE WOODCRAFT LEAGUE OF AMERICA.
 13 West Twenty-ninth Street, New York City.

Ernest Thompson Seton, Chief.
Philip D. Fagans, Executive Secretary.

[Fill out and mail today.]

The Woodcraft League of America Potato Clubs, 13 West Twenty-ninth Street, New York City.

Ernest Thompson Seton, Chief:
 Please enroll me as a member of the Woodcraft League Potato clubs. I agree to plant and raise not less than twenty-four hills of potatoes and make use of the crop, preferably giving the proceeds to some war fund.

I will report to you the result of my work.

Name.....

Address.....

Age (if under 18).....

I will see that a potato club is formed in my town. **Yes** **No**

Prof. Paul W. Thomas, teacher of music at the Chadron Normal, is visiting relatives in Alliance this week. He expects to return to Chadron next week where he will teach in the summer normal.

URGES RAISING MORE BABY BEEF

Large Percentage of Receipts of Stock Markets Consists of Yearlings from Farms

There is one feature of the liberal receipts of cattle for the past ten days that cannot escape notice and in fact is causing considerable comment and that is the large percentage of yearlings—baby beef.

For years there has been a steadily growing demand for baby beef and the young stuff has been commanding a substantial premium particularly during the spring months. Packers discriminated against the heavy cattle until the country learned the lesson that the big, heavy steer was out of style and light and handy beef was the thing the public demanded.

Many farmers thought it impossible to raise beef calves on the high-priced land of the corn belt in competition with the calves raised on the cheaper grazing lands of the west, but the big advance in prices in late years has made the raising of calves and the feeding of baby beef both popular and profitable.

Agricultural experts favored it and the market quotations favored it until today a large percentage of the receipts at the markets consists of yearlings that were raised and fattened on the farms of Iowa and Nebraska. Under modern conditions in our cities this baby beef is more desirable particularly during the spring and summer months than is the beef from heavier animals. The public calls for lighter cuts. They do not run into money so fast and are better suited to light housekeeping.

Steadily advancing cost of range feeders has also been a potent factor in encouraging the raising of beef calves in the corn belt and it looks very much as if the practice of farmers raising their own cattle to feed has again come into vogue, which is a mighty favorable augury for the beef production of the country at large.

Raising baby beef is not going to cut in on the country's beef supply since the she stock is largely preserved for breeding purposes. It is going to economize greatly in the matter of feed, however, and that is a most important item in these times.—South Omaha Journal-Stockman.

PRACTICAL PATRIOTISM

In view of the large amount of alfalfa that has been reported winter killed in Nebraska and the importance of increasing forage and grain crops this year, the Omaha Hay Exchange and the Union Stock Yard Company of Omaha have had large posters printed in red, white and blue, giving valuable information to farmers and stockmen.

These posters are headed, "What About Forage?" Increase in the production of hay and forage for use next winter is urged and particular information from the Agricultural College, at Lincoln, regarding the kind of crops best adapted for growing in an emergency like this, the amount of seed per acre, time of seeding, and how to plant.

Amber Sorghum, common and German, millet, kafir corn, rape, and oats and rape mixed, are recommended.

Mrs. D. W. Kenner went to Hemingford Wednesday afternoon, returning home today.

R. A. Westover was here from Lakeside the middle of the week.

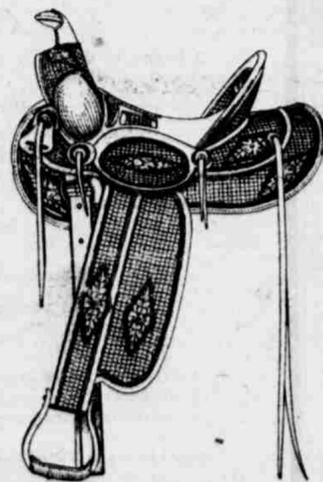
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEBRASKA STOCK GROWERS ASS'N.

The Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association will be held at Valentine, Nebraska, on Monday, June 18, 1917.

Provisions have been made to take care of a large attendance. We hope and wish that all stock growers of Northwestern Nebraska will be present at this meeting. Matters of interest and much importance will be discussed.

CHAS. C. JAMESON,
 Secretary-Treasurer.

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- Sidney, Mrs. C. D. Essig.
- Sidney, Thos. Olson.
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